

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3415

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003

DISCONTINUE OF GOODS TRAIN MOVEMENT ON KATIHAR-SILIGURI SECTION
SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have discontinued the Goods Traffic movement on 8 km stretch of Meter Gauge on Katihar-Siliguri Rail Section;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government are aware about the problems being faced by the local people of Siliguri, Jogbani, Forbeshganj, Arariya, Purnea, Katihar, Supoul and Saharsa due to non-operational of Goods Traffic on above stretch;
- (d) whether Railways is losing revenue of approximately Rs. 300 crores p.a. from discontinuation of this service;
- (e) if so, whether Railways has any plan to re-start this service till conversion of the above section in B.G.; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

- (a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Meter Gauge link between Siliguri Junction to New Jalpaiguri has been disconnected for gauge conversion.
- (c) : Goods traffic handling is feasible from Bagdogra instead of New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri. Bagdogra is about 18 kms away from Siliguri. There is no disruption of traffic between Jogbani and Bagdogra via Purnea, Forbeshganj, Arariya.
- (d) : No, Sir.
- (e) & (f) : Does not arise.